

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: CLARIFICATION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
STATEMENT ON USE OF FOREIGN OIL CRISIS

FOR IOP/M, ILA

1. THE INDEPENDENT DAILY TRINIDAD EXPRESS JANUARY 25 IN
EDITORIAL ON "OIL, ARABS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, "INCOR-
PORATED CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT ON USE OF FORCE IN OIL CRISIS,
MADE IN JANUARY 16 INTERVIEW WITH MOYERS. CLARIFICATION
BASED ON USIS WEEKLY BULLETIN WHICH WHEF-8 OF JANUARY 20
HEADED "KISSINGER: MILITARY ACTION ON OIL WOULD BE TOTALLY
INAPPROPRIATE." BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW.

2. PRESIDENT FORD OF THE UNITED STATES IS REPORTED TO HAVE
AGREED WITH HIS SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER,
THAT FORCE MIGHT BE USED AGAINST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES
TO PREVENT THE STRANGULATION OF WESTERN ECONOMIES.
DR. KISSINGER HAS SINCE DENIED THAT HE HAD MADE SUCH A
STATEMENT, ALLEGING THAT THE SENTENCE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM WAS
"TAKEN TOTALLY OUT OF CONTEXT". IT WAS ONLY PART OF A LONG
INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE WAS TRYING TO OUTLINE U.S. POLICY BUILT
ON A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL CONSUMERS AND OIL
PRODUCERS.

3. WHAT DR. KISSINGER NOW CLAIMED HE HAD SAID WAS
THAT COOPERATION WAS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE WORLD'S DILEMMA
OVER OIL PRICES, AND ANY ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM THROUGH
CONFLICT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR MILITARY WOULD BE
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"TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE." WE ARE GLAD THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS

CLEARED THE AIR. FOR RESORT TO WAR AS A RESULT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONTRARY TO UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY AS OUTLINED IN THE HISTORIC MONROE DOCTRINE SIGNED MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO.

4. THIS INSTRUMENT STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERED THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AS NO LONGER A PLACE FOR EUROPEAN COLONISATION; AND THAT ANY FUTURE EFFORT TO GAIN FURTHER POLITICAL CONTROL IN THE HEMISPHERE OR TO VIOLATE THE INDEPENDENCE OF EXISTING STATES WOULD BE TREATED AS AN ACT OF HOSTILITY. ANY MILITARY ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT AS AN OIL PRODUCING COUNTRY OURSELVES, ALTHOUGH OUR OUTPUT IS MINIMAL IN RELATION TO WORLD PRODUCTION, WE WOULD HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF THIS KIND OF THREAT. FOR DESPITE THE FACT THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS DENIED POSING THE THREAT, PRESIDENT FORD WHO AGREED WITH THE ALLEGED STATEMENTS, HAS HIMSELF NOT ISSUED A DENIAL.

5. YET THERE IS A PART OF DR. KISSINGER'S DENIAL WHICH SEEMS TO CONFUSE THE ISSUE. THAT CONCERNS HIS STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WAS NOT SAYING THAT "THERE IS NO CIRCUMSTANCE WHERE WE WOULD NOT USE FORCE. BUT THERE IS ONE THING TO USE IT IN THE CASE OF A DISPUTE OVER PRICE; IT'S ANOTHER WHERE THERE'S SOME ACTUAL STRANGULATION OF THE INDUSTRIALISED WORLD." COULD DR. KISSINGER MEAN THAT IF THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN OIL PRICES BY THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES RESULTS IN THE "STRANGULATION OF INDUSTRY". THE UNITED STATES WOULD GO TO WAR?

6. WE THINK THAT IN NO CIRCUMSTANCE IN THE DECADE OF THE SEVENTIES SHOULD THE UNITED STATES INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY -- BE IT COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE IN WHICH WE COULD EASILY BE INVOLVED. THE UNITED STATES, AND OTHER COUNTRIES SIMILARLY AFFECTED, WILL HAVE TO RESORT TO MORE AMICABLE METHODS IN THEIR DESIRE TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE ARABS.
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